

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

FY2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant Name: Appalachia Habitat for Humanity Program Name: Housing Service Corps	Application ID: 12AC133451
<i>For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.</i>	
Reviewers' Summary Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The applicant presents a thorough description of the needs in the communities to be served and how the proposed program will meet those needs. The project will work on providing safe affordable homes in Scott, Morgan, Knox, and Anderson counties in East Tennessee which are all classified as housing-cost burdened, with 30-40% of households spending greater than 30% of income on housing costs, and where high poverty and unemployment rates have resulted in an increase in the number of homeless families.• The applicant proposes to eliminate substandard housing and homelessness by constructing safe, affordable housing and the use of AmeriCorps members to assist in construction, in recruiting and managing volunteers and in serving families needing housing.• The outcomes provided by the applicant do not indicate the basis for the stated percentage of increased rate of housing availability. The outcomes do not include how the past performance has decreased the number of homeless families in the targeted areas.• The applicant clearly provides information concerning the housing needs in the designated communities.• The applicant addresses the benefit of using AmeriCorps members and volunteers to provide interventions to the community that will have a positive impact.• The use of out- of-state Members may influence retention.• The application was well developed and demonstrates the housing needs in the community.• The applicant provided a substantial explanation of the Member experience and impact, but did not	

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articulate the same degree of explanation of the recruitment, training and supervision of these Members. This gap is sufficient to be a major deficiency for the application.

- The applicant uses compelling and current data to demonstrate the housing cost burden, the impact of the foreclosure crisis and the high unemployment and poverty rates in the service area.
- The applicant very clearly delineates the Member responsibilities and explains how the Members are a highly effective way to achieve the goal of building affordable housing.
- The Housing Service Corps program solves the problem of affordable housing by constructing new, affordable housing. The ability to accommodate more volunteers with the assistance of AmeriCorps members coordinating volunteer efforts has resulted in Habitat for Humanity being able to have up to three sites under construction at the same time.
- The applicant presents a clear and well-documented case for affordable homes evidenced by numerous supporting references, provides compelling data and information with references supporting the extent of the need, and provides satisfactory evidence that families are burdened with the increasing cost of energy.
- The applicant clearly defines its intent and method to utilize 20 AmeriCorps members to transition 100 economically disadvantaged people in the target counties with Members assisting in construction, serving families that need housing, and in recruiting and managing volunteers. As Members become more experienced, they will lead volunteer teams providing the volunteers instruction and supervision.
- The applicant demonstrates relevant and reasonable expectations of success in positively impacting the target counties as evidenced by stated performance measures and past accomplishments, intending to effectively involve volunteers to work alongside Members to increase project accomplishments.
- The applicant has established an effective recruitment process and strives to bring Members from across the country and from diverse backgrounds to provide local Members an opportunity to learn about other cultures and give Members from other areas an opportunity to learn about Appalachia.
- The applicant provides an effective orientation and training for Members. Construction Members are appropriately oriented to the service sites to learn basic carpentry skills and organizational protocol.